



State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Ben Brancel, Secretary

WI ORGANIC ADVISORY COUNCIL NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Wisconsin Organic Advisory Council is looking for people who care about the future of organic agriculture in Wisconsin and are willing to commit some time and energy to helping it grow. We like people who are willing to share their opinion and perspective and have strong critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Nominations are being accepted for four seats on the 12 member Council, including an organic farmer seat, a seat for an organic business, a seat for an organic consumer rep, and an 'at-large' seat. The Council meets quarterly to guide the development of organic education and marketing opportunities for Wisconsin farms and businesses as well as provide input on state and federal policy that affect organic agriculture.

Each member serves a three-year term. Application materials are available on our website or from Theresa Feiner, DATCP Business Development Specialist, theresa.feiner@wi.gov. **Applications are due on or before February 15th, 2016 and should be mailed to Theresa.**

Advisory Council purpose, structure, and function:

- The purpose of the Council is to provide guidance to the Secretary of Agriculture, the Governor, the Legislature, and other state and federal agencies on actions that can be taken to further the Wisconsin organic industry.
- The Council consists of 12 people representing the spectrum of organic production, processing, and marketing in Wisconsin and will include:
 - 3 certified organic farmers, preferably reflecting several types of farms (dairy, vegetable, etc.).
 - 3 organic business sector representatives.
 - 1 representative of organic consumers.
 - 1 representative of a private, non-profit educational organization involved in organic agriculture.
 - 1 representative of the certification industry.
 - 3 at-large members.
- Member terms are on a three-year rotating basis, with four members going off each year. Members may serve more than one term.
- The Council conducts its business primarily via quarterly all-day meetings, email and conference calls.

Nomination process:

- Fill out the nomination form (making sure the person you nominate knows it and is willing to serve), or self-nominate.
- Obtain two letters of recommendation from people who support this person's nomination.
- Send to Theresa Feiner, WI DATCP, PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708 or Theresa.feiner@wi.gov.
- Nominees will be evaluated by a nominating committee and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Agriculture Board.
- Selected nominees will be seated at the July 2016 meeting of the Organic Advisory Council.
- Please contact Theresa Feiner for further information or application materials.

Agriculture generates \$88 billion for Wisconsin

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